

real trouble that should go to the Firm, they get a fair hearing and even tho' only a Junior saleswoman or a merchandise checker, the Firm are just as anxious to adjust their complaint as they are that of a Buyer, or any high salaried employee.

All cases of illness are taken care of by the Mutual Aid Association. If further assistance is necessary, the case is turned over to the Welfare Secretary and she in turn takes it to the Firm and such assistance is given as the Secretary recommends.

All employees are encouraged to save, if only a few cents each week. We have the Penny Provident, also the Vacation Savings Fund in which our people deposit small amounts weekly. I am glad to say we have a great number saving.

Aside from our own clubs a great many of the boys attend night school, in order to secure a better position in the store.

Our Library, too, is very popular, especially so this year, since we have had an educated woman as Librarian. She takes great interest in the boys and girls and helps them secure the right books. Last year, when the Library was in charge of just a clerk, we only had two hundred members, this year we have over six hundred and new members coming every day.

The Sanitary arrangements throughout the house are excellent. Individual wash bowls, towels and liquid soap are provided for each employee. Drinking fountains with bubblers are on each floor, containing distilled water. Ample locker room is provided, convenient to the department where employed.

A lunch-room is maintained, where between two and three thousand are served each day. A varied and wholesome lunch can be had at cost.

One might write on indefinitely about this interesting work as each day brings some new phase of it; however, I hope I have given some idea of "Welfare Work" in a department store.

A CHINESE HELEN KELLER

NELLIE K. SMITH

(Courtesy of Sunday School Times, Philadelphia.)

Six Chinese girls from that great nation's four hundred thousand deaf-mutes were gathered in the Chefoo School for the Deaf when the branch for girls was opened in December of 1907. In the city of Yen Tai, better known as Chefoo, a seaport town on the Gulf of Pechili, North China, this school for the Deaf was established by Mrs. A. T. Mills, formerly a teacher in the Rochester School, New

York. When the school for was opened Miss A. E. Carter of New York, took charge of six students. Many more now wish to enter, but there is not room for them with the present facilities.

Wang Fung-Ying, one of these six girls, was blind as well as deaf. Her exact age is not known, but she is about eighteen. Fung-Ying was sent to the Chefoo School from the Hildershiem Roman Catholic Mission in Kowloon, Hong Kong. The Sisters there had not the time to devote to this poor unfortunate child, and could do little for her. She would often go into violent outbursts of temper, and seemed quite a hopeless case. It is of her particularly and of what Miss Carter has accomplished with her in two and a half years that I shall write.



Her beloved teacher's request to gather a bunch of flowers for Miss Smith, who was visiting the school was spelled into Fung-Ying's hand in English.

What is known of Fung-Ying's history is soon told. Her home was in Hoksan, in the hill country of the Hakas. The father brought her to the Hong Kong mission, stating that in her early childhood, through an attack of smallpox, she had lost both sight and hearing. In consequence of this misfortune she had grown up in absolute ignorance, and there is little wonder that she flew into terrible rages. Nature was fighting for expression in some form.

Miss Carter took the girl in hand, with the assistance of Mrs. Sen, a graduate of the Teng Chow 'Tu Girls' High School. It required three months of the combined effort of these two women to teach the child that d-o-l-l, spelled into her hand with the alphabet for the blind, stood for the object which they had put into her arms. Many times they were on the point of giving up, but with infinite patience they worked on.

Mrs. Sen would say, "She will have an opening of the heart very soon."

When light began to penetrate this darkened brain the work went more easily and the fits of rage were less frequent. By the end of ten months Miss Carter and the child had both learned the Braille system of raised letters.

Miss Carter was a graduate nurse from Bellevue Hospital, New York. At the time when there was an epidemic of trachoma among the children of that City, she was appointed under the Civil Service as one of the health inspectors of public schools. She served for three years when she resigned to go out to China and take up a different work, the teaching of the deaf. Her aunt, Mrs. Mills, had said to her, "There are plenty here at home who can take your place, but you are needed so much in China." So Miss Carter went to China to undertake a work that necessitated the learning not only of Braille and of Bell's Visible Speech Symbols, but the Chinese language.

As soon as Fung-Ying had learned to use the sign language and write and read the Braille, she began to express herself in a feeble way, and each step carried her farther along the road.

When I visited the school and met Fung-Ying she had been just two years and a half under the training, and the result was marvelous. As Helen Keller has her Miss Sullivan, so Fung-Ying has her Miss Carter. What a debt the seeing, speaking world, as well as those cut off from these advantages, owes to such unselfish women who work quietly in the background to help one soul upward, and in that one help thousands of others!

The school is in a small one-story building, partly built after the Chinese style of architecture, on the east hill back of the city. As I entered Miss Carter welcomed me, and she did all that she could to give me an understanding of the work as it is being carried on in Chefoo. There are known to be over four hundred thousand deaf and dumb in China. They are looked upon as most undesirable in a family; the girls in poor families, as soon as they are old enough, are sold into slavery; the boys, are often turned out to make their way among a people most unsympathetic toward the deaf.

A short time after my entrance, Fung-Ying was brought to the door, and with little hesitancy she found her way to Miss Carter's side, and held the palm of her hand up to learn what was wanted of her. Miss Carter told her to get her Braille slate and her handkerchief. She did both without the least hesitation.

While we were talking, Miss Carter spelled in English into Fung-Ying's hand that she was to go out and pick some flowers for the guest. This she did, carefully finding the flowers from among the leaves. When she had picked a large bunch she brought them into the house, presented them to me, and then took my hands and put the palms together. This is a Chinese greeting or thank you; she wished to show me how to do it.



When Only the Hands Can Speak and Hear

With a devotion like that of Miss Sullivan to Helen Keller, Miss Carter is transforming Fung-Ying, who came to her a destitute girl, without knowledge, without sight or hearing, and with a violent temper.

A few moments after this, she discovered that she had lost her hair-ribbon among the flowers, and this worried her very much. She wrote in Braille upon her slate: "Lost my hair-string among the flowers." She became nervous over the loss, and some one was sent to find the ribbon. When her photograph was taken, Miss Carter put two combs in Fung-Ying's hair, much to her satisfaction. But later she carefully returned the combs, as she knew that they had only been lent to her.

Then followed the most wonderful demonstration of all. Miss Carter is commencing to teach her to speak by the Bell Visible Symbols. Of course, she must learn these, not in the usual way, but by placing her fingers upon Miss Carter's tongue, lips and throat, then putting her fingers upon her own tongue, and emitting the sound according to the position of the tongue. She first made the "f" sound with the lips, then the "t" and "k" sounds with the tongue. As a fitting climax, Miss Carter touched the girl's hair, and she spoke distinctly the Chinese word "fa," which means hair. For this effort I put my arms about her, and she responded with keen pleasure to the endearment.

The blind and the deaf girl has been won and taught by love, to which at first she was quite unresponsive. She now finds a joy in life; she has a means of intercourse with the other girls, and she takes an interest in what goes on in the school. Her greatest delight is to be with Miss Carter and her slate, and her constant prayer is, "Teach me." The result is all the more marvelous when one considers the age of the girl before she received any training whatever, and the fact of her antecedents—generations of poor, uneducated people.

Here in the Western world the difficulties which Miss Carter has surmounted can hardly be realized. It was necessary that she learn the Chinese language by the Bell Visible Speech Symbols. Then she had to become familiar with the Chinese way of doing things, in order that she might not give offense to the Chinese people, who are inclined, not without ground, to be very suspicious of the foreigner. All the difficulties have been met and conquered, and she now sees before her, as a result of two years of work, the awakening of a soul whose body was afflicted in many ways.

An interesting history could be written about each of the other girls whom Miss Carter is trying to lift into lives of usefulness. In China the deaf are more truly outcasts than even the blind; these are sometimes looked upon as wise men, but the deaf are, according to current belief, being punished for previous sins, and are possessed of a devil.

The first pupil to come to the Chefoo school was little Ying-Tswen, which means "Yellow Jasmine." She was so named because she came to the school when that flower was in bloom. Her father was a beggar, and had reached a point where he could not beg or earn enough with his leaky *sampan* to support his family, which consisted of five, although human beings do live in

China upon a sum about equal to one dollar a month. So this man, Li by name, having failed to find a future mother-in-law for his little daughter, because she was deaf and therefore useless, and also having failed to sell her as a slave, turned as a last resort to the school and asked them to take her in. This little child, whose body was filthy and covered with rags and who was apparently not wanted anywhere, was accepted here because the heart of Mrs. Mills could not refuse. Thus was the girls' branch of the school started.



Because a Chinese father could not sell his little deaf daughter as a slave, he brought her to the Chefoo school for deaf boys. She was not refused, and thus began the work for the deaf girls who are now in the school. Fung-Ying, who holds close her Braille slate, is both deaf and blind. The girls' teachers, Miss Carter and Mrs. Sen, are seen on the left.

Ying Tswen was filled with fear at first, but clean clothes and good food and love soon won her, and she is now a bright and happy-looking girl. She went through her exercises beautifully, speaking some sentences in English in a well-modulated voice, and so well pronounced that I could understand her readily. She has grown so attractive that Miss Carter feared that her mother, who visits her occasionally, would sell or betroth her. Her father had died during the cholera epidemic a year before. Miss Carter asked the mother what sum she would take for the right to keep her child in the school. After some consideration, she decided that two thousand *cash* per year would be a proper sum. This amount is equal to about one United States gold dollar. Before the death of the father, Miss Carter had visited their home, and this is her description of it:

Following a guide who knew the native city well, we took our way around the hill where the temple of the pearly emperor stands outlined against the sky, through an old cemetery with well-beaten paths between the mounds. This way led us to a street which followed the west wall of the city down to the sea.

"At last we found ourselves walking in sand, and surrounded by beggars. We asked for the Li family, and we were escorted to their hut by no fewer than twenty of the neighbors. The hut was a little more pretentious than some of the others, for it could boast a door made of an old piece of cloth, and they had built a wing of straw mats on to the living room, forming an L-shaped building. There was also a court, fenced in with bamboo. Although these arrangements afforded little protection against the cold, they did secure something of privacy, and helped to make a home, which is as dear to the Eastern heart as to the Western.

"A hungry dog announced our arrival, for no beggar is too poor to own a dog, with which he will share his last crust. A bird beat its wings against the bamboo splints of a rude cage in a vain effort to escape, while a naked little Oriental set up a howl which proved that he had seen few 'foreign devils,' and that though he might be deaf, he was far from being dumb. The commotion brought the father and mother to the door, and they invited us inside. Standard Oil cases, which they had picked up on the beach, served as seats. We soon made our errand known by asking them to pose for a picture, which they willingly did. This finished, they begged us to wait while they went to the nearest hot water kettle to buy some drinking water for us. This means more trouble and expense proportionately to these simple people than there would be for us in serving our friends with an elaborate dinner. We soon made our excuses, and promising to see them again gave them our farewell."

This is a typical picture of many of the homes of the poorer classes in China.

One of the brightest girls in the school, Gao Djin Yu, comes from Peking. Her family had accepted Christianity. At the time of the Boxer uprising in 1900 the father happened to be away in the country, and when he returned he found that his wife and three children, one an infant, and his father and mother, had all been murdered by the Boxes. They had not killed the little deaf child, because they were afraid that the devil who had made her deaf would do them harm. It was a terrible test of the Christian faith

BELLEVUE ALUMNAE QUARTERLY

of the father, but he stood true. When he heard of this school for the deaf, he brought his little daughter to it, and pays regularly for her support. He is extremely proud of the progress she has in the two years.

Many times Mrs. Mills has not seen her way clear to meet the expenses for the following month, but she has struggled on, and the seed is being sown in China that will help not only the four hundred thousand deaf-mutes who are there to-day, but those of future generations. A few of the higher class Chinese have visited the school and had it demonstrated to them that the deaf are intelligent, and that they may live useful lives.

It was not so very many years ago in our own country that we were just awakening to this fact. The progress made has been marvelous, and the positions taken in the world by the deaf and the blind prove that they should have every advantage possible to them. The advance made in our country in fifty years gives a large hope for China, where the small beginning in helping the unfortunate has made an entering wedge. And two American women in a most practical way are helping to force that wedge in farther.

LOOKING FORWARD.

EXTRACTS FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF BELLEVUE SOCIAL SERVICE BUREAU.

Leaving to the various divisions of the Bureau to record what each has accomplished of especial importance during the last year let us consider some of the opportunities for further usefulness that lie directly ahead of us and also the urgent needs of community resources which our experience has forcefully brought out.

Following to its home for after-care a Hungarian baby with Interstitial Keratitis led us into a family of sixteen members, living fairly well, in seven rooms. Three generations were represented.

Among them were discovered six cases of scabies, five of syphilis, one of pleurisy, one of bow-legs, one of enlarged tonsils, an infected finger, an axillary abscess, a case of arrested development, two cases of gynecological conditions needing treatment and three cases of unemployment—affecting altogether eleven individuals, none of whom had been under a physician's care.

A drinking, deserting father was apparently the root of much of this trouble in the third generation. Every case has been

